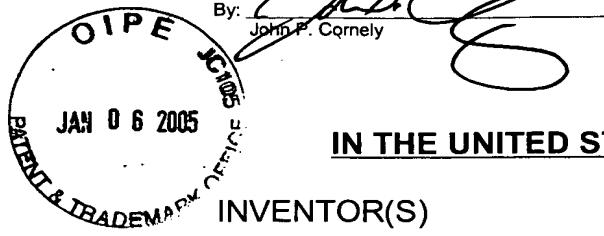


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I hereby certify that this paper and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail service on January 3, 2005 and is addressed to the MAILSTOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:

John P. Cornely



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S) : Bello, et al.
TITLE : SMART FRONT END FOR A PRINT
COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL
APPLICATION NO. : 09/675,068
FILED : September 28, 2000
CONFIRMATION NO. : 2843
EXAMINER : Karl Reitz
ART UNIT : 2624
LAST OFFICE ACTION : July 2, 2004
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : A0601 US NP
XERZ 2 00375

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT A

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 2, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.